

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CEQ-02 EPA-04 DOTE-00 HUD-02 NASA-04

NSF-04 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 260800Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, SW

SUBJECT: OIL FOUND ON SWEDISH ISLAND OF GOTLAND

1. ACCORDING TO RECENT SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS, THE OIL PROSPECTING COMPANY OIJEPROSPEKTERING AB, STOCKHOLM, WHICH HAS BEEN DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN SOUTHERN SWEDEN, HAS ASCERTAINED THE EXISTENCE OF OIL FROM A HOLE DRILLED IN THE COMMUNITY OF HARMA ON SOUTHERN GOTLAND OFF THE SOUTHEAST COAST OF SWEDEN. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ARNE CARLSSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF OIJEPROSPEKTERING, WHO INDICATED THAT THE OIL IS LOW IN SULPHUR CONTENT AND OF GOOD QUALITY. FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE, HOWEVER, WILL REPORTEDLY BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND VALUE OF THIS DEPOSIT. THUS FAR, SOME TWENTY HOLES HAVE BEEN DRILLED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF GOTLAND, ALL OF WHICH HAVE GONE DOWN TO A DEPTH OF ABOUT 800 METERS. SEVERAL HAVE REPORTEDLY SHOWN TRACES OF OIL AND GAS.

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2. ESTABLISHED IN 1969 TO SEARCH FOR OIL AND GAS IN SWEDEN, OLJEPROSPEKTERING IS CAPITALIZED AT SKR 5 MILLION, WITH OWNERSHIP DIVIDED AMONG THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT (WHICH HOLDS HALF THE CAPITAL STOCK) AND SEVERAL PROMINENT PRIVATE SWEDISH CORPORATIONS, INCLUDING ASEA, BOLIDEN, AGA, GRANGES, KEMANORD, NYNAS-PETROLEUM, SYDSVENSKA KRAFT, AMONG OTHERS. CITING DIRECTOR ANDERS BJORGERD OF SYDSVENSKA KRAFT, WHO ADDRESSED AN ENERGY CONFERENCE RECENTLY HELD AT VARBERG ON THE WEST COAST, THE OIL DEPOSITS ON THE ISLAND OF GOTLAND MAY BE EXPECTED TO YIELD ABOUT TWO MILLION TONS OF OIL ANNUALLY, EQUIVALENT TO ALMOST ONE TENTH OF SWEDEN'S ANNUAL CONSUMPTION.

3. ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM EVENING NEWSPAPER, AFTONBLADET, ORGAN OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (LO), BUOYANT OPTIMISM PREVAILS WITHIN OLJEPROSPEKTERING BUT ONE FACTOR IS SAID TO "CLOUD THE SKY." THAT IS REPORTEDLY THE INTEREST THE SOVIET UNION IS BEGINNING TO SHOW IN OIL DEPOSITS IN THE BALTIC SEA. THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PAPER DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WITHIN A MONTH SWEDEN IS TO START NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BALTIC. THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE SCOPE OF OLJEPRXPEKTERINGS DRILLING OPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

COMMENT: SYDSVENSKA KRAFT ESTIMATE OF OIL YIELD IS CLEARLY SPECULATIVE. OLJEPROSPEKTERING AB SOURCE EARLIER INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT DETERMINATION OF POTENTIAL OIL RESOURCES WILL REQUIRE FURTHER TESTS. ON CONTINENTAL SHELF MATTER SOVIET UNION REPORTEDLY HOLDS THAT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD EXTEND INTO THE BALTIC SEA 100 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE MAINLAND OF SWEDEN. SWEDEN HOLDS THAT THE COAST OF GOTLAND SHOULD BE THE BASIS FROM WHERE THE CALCULATIONS SHOULD BE MADE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, CONTINENTAL SHELF, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OIL FIELDS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH01280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740064-0890
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamgh.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <18 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL FOUND ON SWEDISH ISLAND OF GOTLAND
TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, PFOR, SW, UR, OLJEPROSPEKTERING
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005